

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use with an electrophysiology device that includes a coagulation element, the apparatus comprising:

a main body;

a suction region associated with the main body;

a stimulation element on the main body;

a stimulation energy sensing element on the main body; and

a connector, located between the stimulation element and the stimulation energy sensing element, configured to secure at least a portion of the electrophysiology device to the main body adjacent to the suction region.

2. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the suction region comprises a plurality of suction regions and the stimulation element comprises a plurality of stimulation elements.

3. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stimulation element comprises a stimulation electrode.

4. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stimulation element comprises a stimulation electrode pair.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein the stimulation energy sensing element comprises a stimulation energy sensing electrode.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein the stimulation energy sensing element comprises a stimulation energy sensing electrode pair.

9. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the suction region comprises first and second suction ports and the connector is positioned between the first and second suction ports.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 9~~, further comprising: claim 1, wherein
a ~~sensing element on the main body~~ the stimulation energy sensing element is adjacent to the first suction port; and
~~wherein~~ the stimulation element is adjacent to the second suction port.

11. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connector is configured to removably secure at least a portion of the electrophysiology device adjacent to the suction region.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for use with an electrophysiology device that includes a coagulation element, the system comprising:
a suction source; and
an apparatus, adapted to be operably connected to the suction source, including a main body, a suction region associated with the main body, a stimulation element on the main body, a stimulation energy sensing element on the main body, and a connector, located between the stimulation element and the stimulation energy

sensing element, configured to secure at least a portion of the electrophysiology device to the main body adjacent to the suction region.

13. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the suction region comprises a plurality of suction regions and the stimulation element comprises a plurality of stimulation elements.

14. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the stimulation element comprises a stimulation electrode.

15. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the stimulation element comprises a stimulation electrode pair.

16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~claim 16~~ claim 12, wherein the stimulation energy sensing element comprises a stimulation energy sensing electrode.

19. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~claim 16~~ claim 12, wherein the stimulation energy sensing element comprises a stimulation energy sensing electrode pair.

20. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the suction region comprises first and second suction ports and the connector is positioned between the first and second suction ports.

21. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~claim 20, further comprising:~~
claim 12, wherein

~~a sensing element on the main body~~ the stimulation energy sensing
element is adjacent to the first suction port; and

~~wherein~~ the stimulation element is adjacent to the second suction port.

22. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the connector is configured to removably secure at least a portion of the electrophysiology device adjacent to the suction region.

23. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
an electrophysiology device including a support structure and a coagulation element carried on the support structure; and

a stimulation apparatus including a main body, a suction region associated with the main body, a stimulation element on the main body, a stimulation energy sensing element on the main body, and a connector, located between the stimulation element and the stimulation energy sensing element, configured to secure at least a portion of the electrophysiology device to the main body adjacent to the suction region.

24. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the electrophysiological device support structure defines a cross-sectional size and shape and the connector defines a corresponding cross-sectional size and shape.

25. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:
a suction source adapted to be operably connected to the stimulation apparatus.

26. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:
a stimulation energy source adapted to be operably connected to the stimulation apparatus.

27. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:
a coagulation energy source adapted to be operably connected to the electrophysiology device.

28. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the electrophysiological device includes a plurality of spaced coagulation elements, the stimulation apparatus includes a plurality of spaced stimulation elements, and the electrophysiological device and stimulation apparatus are respectively configured such that the coagulation elements will be adjacent to respective stimulation elements when the electrophysiology device is connected to the stimulation apparatus.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the stimulation element comprises a stimulation electrode.

31. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the stimulation element comprises a stimulation electrode pair.

32-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~claim 32~~ claim 23, wherein the stimulation energy sensing element comprises a stimulation energy sensing electrode.

~~36~~ 35. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in ~~claim 32~~ claim 23, wherein the stimulation energy sensing element comprises a stimulation energy sensing electrode pair.

~~37~~ 36. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:
an electrophysiology recording apparatus adapted to be operably connected to the stimulation energy sensing element on the stimulation apparatus.

~~38~~ 37. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the connector is configured to removably secure at least a portion of the electrophysiology device adjacent to the suction region.

~~39~~ 38. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising the steps of:
forming a lesion in tissue;
securing a stimulation element to tissue adjacent to the lesion with a suction device; ~~and~~
transmitting stimulation energy to the tissue ~~adjacent to the lesion~~ on one side of the lesion; and
monitoring tissue to sense a local excitation caused by the transmitted stimulation energy on the other side of the lesion.

~~40~~ 39. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~claim 39~~ claim 38, wherein the step of forming a lesion comprises forming a lesion in tissue by supplying coagulation energy to the tissue.

~~44~~ 40. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~claim 39~~ claim 38, wherein the step of forming a lesion comprises forming a lesion in tissue by supplying coagulation energy to the tissue with an electrode.

~~42~~ 41. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~claim 39~~ claim 38, wherein the step of forming a lesion comprises the steps of:

positioning a distal portion of an electrophysiology device adjacent to tissue;

applying a suction force to the tissue with a suction device secured to the electrophysiology device; and

forming a lesion with the electrophysiology device in the tissue while the suction force is being applied.

~~43~~ 42. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~claim 42~~ claim 41, wherein the step of securing a stimulation element to tissue comprises:

positioning a stimulation element carried on the suction device adjacent to the lesion;

applying a suction force to the tissue with a suction device;

transmitting stimulation energy to the tissue adjacent to the lesion while the suction force is being applied.

~~44~~ 43. (Canceled)

~~45~~ 44. (Canceled)

~~46~~ 45. (Canceled)

~~47~~ 46. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~claim 46~~ claim 38, wherein the step of monitoring tissue comprises monitoring tissue to sense a local excitation caused by the transmitted stimulation energy on the other side of the lesion to determine a propagation delay.